

Mayor Autry played various roles on both the big and small screen. He has continued his entertainment career through the development of the Autry Entertainment Group. As CEO of the Autry Entertainment Group, Autry continues to work to bring Fresno to the forefront as a location for entertainment projects creating economic stimulus. In a desire to further improve and serve the city of Fresno, he decided to enter the realm of politics and enter the 2000 mayoral race.

On January 2, 2001, Mayor Autry was sworn into office to serve as the Mayor of Fresno. He was elected to serve a second term that began in January 2005. While in office, the Mayor has been active in various causes with his primary focus being crime prevention and education reform. He has also been active in the Armenian community of Fresno. Prior to being elected into office, he clearly stated his desire to revitalize downtown Fresno. By revitalizing this area of the city, Mayor Autry believes that "Armenia Town" would be able to thrive as it did when Armenian immigrants first arrived in Fresno. In 2005, Mayor Autry committed to building a monument in Fresno dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide. Mayor Autry has also been a strong supporter of the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mayor Alan Autry upon being awarded with the 2008 Armenian National Committee's "Man of the Year" Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mayor Autry many years of continued success.

HONORING KYLE ROBERT ELDER

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Robert Elder of Platte City, Missouri. Kyle is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle Robert Elder for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SENATOR  
HOWARD METZENBAUM

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Howard Metzenbaum, former U.S. Senator from Ohio. He was a close friend to me and a great asset to this

country. I valued greatly my relationship with him; I turned to him frequently for advice and inspiration. He was a consummate consumer advocate, labor rights advocate, accomplished legislator and an important figure in Ohio's political history.

Senator Metzenbaum's steadfast support for consumer rights and worker protections, as well as his commitment to protecting the working class in this country, still serves as a constant motivation for me in my service to my constituents.

During his years in the Senate, Mr. Metzenbaum introduced and passed several important pieces of legislation such as The Nutrition Information and Labeling Act of 1990 and the Cable Act of 1992, which re-regulated cable TV rates. Following his retirement from the Senate, Mr. Metzenbaum served as the Chairman for the Consumer Federation of America for ten years, a demonstration of his dedication to consumer interest.

Senator Metzenbaum will be remembered as a savvy businessman and staunch advocate for Ohio's working men and women. From parking lots to newspapers and airports his investments secured his legacy in Ohio as both an iron-willed businessman and politician. He was a fearless opponent of all things related to special interests—if a bill did not have the best interest of workers and consumers in mind, it would not budge in the Senate. He was one of the greatest senators to serve this country. Ohio was fortunate to be the beneficiaries of his service, and I was very fortunate to be the recipient of his wisdom and guidance. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Madam Speaker and colleagues please join me in honoring the life of Howard Metzenbaum, a dedicated citizen and politician of Ohio, whose forceful legislative, economic and personal contributions to this country will live on long into the future.

### 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF OROVILLE STATE THEATER

### HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2008*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, today I wish to join with the City of Oroville, California, in celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Oroville State Theater.

Dedicated on April 7, 1928, the Oroville State Theater has served as an integral part of downtown Oroville. Designed by Timothy L. Pflueger, one of the leading architects of the 1920s, the facility is now recognized in the National Historical Register.

The theater was originally designed for fine vaudeville acts and films. It was one of the last "Movie Palaces" built for both live and film entertainment. Although movies became the main staple, live performances, talent shows, war bond drives, and school graduations continued to take place within the theater.

The Oroville State Theater underwent significant remodeling at the direction of United Artists. Much of the theater's original 1928 architectural details, including the magnificent flag sign and marquee, were either removed or covered. In 1986, United Artists notified the city of its intent to close and sell the theater.

Rather than have a vacant building downtown, the city viewed the pending closure as an opportunity to fill a longstanding need for a community performance center.

Since 1986, the Oroville State Theater has undergone a significant renovation with the goal of returning the facility to its original 1928 operating condition. Subsequently, these renovations have brought back some of the building's most interesting visual features, including the facade along Myers Street. The extensive improvements have occurred because of strong support by volunteers, business and community organizations.

On April 5, 2008, we will all celebrate the theater's 80th anniversary with an event that will replicate much of the program from its original "Grand Opening," including a silent movie with live theater organ accompaniment. Without question, the community support of the Oroville State Theater continues to be the backbone of this longstanding community tradition. With the efforts put forth by so many, they have ensured that the curtain will not fall for their theater, but usher in a new era of theatrical performances.

### COMMENDING GRENADA ON NAMING ERIC GAIRY A NATIONAL HERO IN ITS 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 31, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Grenada on the commemoration of its political independence and to commend its selection of Eric Matthew Gairy, the country's first prime minister, as its first national hero. He led his country to independence from Britain in 1974 and served out his term amidst those politically charged and tense early years.

It is imperative for a nation seeking to move forward to cull its collective memory and pay homage to the men and women whose sacrifice and heroism in the past created the opportunities of the present. Grenada is applauded for its efforts to do just that, announcing along with Gairy 15 other awardees who have stood up for the island nation over the course of its 34 years. Congratulations, Grenada.

GRENADA: ERIC GAIRY NATIONAL HERO

ST. GEORGES'S GRENADA, CMC.—Former Prime Minister Sir Eric Matthew Gairy was named as the country's first National Hero and a number of outstanding nationals honoured as Grenadians celebrated 34 years of political independence from Britain.

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Mitchell announced that Gairy, who became this Caribbean country's first Prime Minister after leading the former British colony into independence on February 7, 1974, would be the nation's first hero under the recently passed National Honours Act.

The new piece of legislation provides for 15 people to be recognised annually for outstanding services to Grenada as part of the independence celebrations.

Among the first batch of awardees was deceased Grenadian-born regional broadcaster Leslie Seon and Leslie Pierre, editor of the weekly Grenadian Voice newspaper, who was made a Knight Commander for his contribution towards the development of the Scout Movement and Journalism in the island.